

**REMARKS**

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of all the claims now in the application (i.e. Claims 1, 2, 5, 7-27) is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

With regard to amended claims 1, 14 and 20, none of the prior art shows bores extending from the upper to lower implant surface in which the bores are in communication to one another from the upper to the lower surface. With regard to claim 24, none of the prior art shows three bores having sidewalls in open communication with adjacent bores.

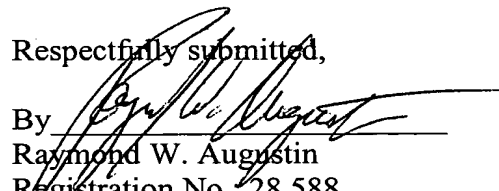
As it is believed that all of the rejections set forth in the Official Action have been fully met, favorable reconsideration and allowance are earnestly solicited.

If, however, for any reason the Examiner does not believe that such action can be taken at this time, it is respectfully requested that he/she telephone applicant's attorney at (908) 654-5000 in order to overcome any additional objections which he might have.

If there are any additional charges in connection with this requested amendment, the Examiner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 12-1095 therefor.

Dated: April 21, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

By   
Raymond W. Augustin  
Registration No.: 28,588  
LERNER, DAVID, LITTENBERG,  
KRUMHOLZ & MENTLIK, LLP  
600 South Avenue West  
Westfield, New Jersey 07090  
(908) 654-5000  
Attorney for Applicant